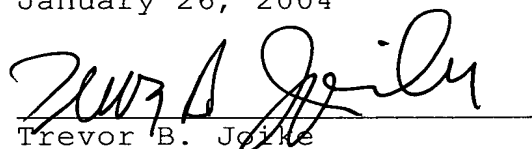


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | | |
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| Applicants: | M. A. |) | I hereby certify that this |
| Fathimulla, et al. | |) | paper is being deposited |
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| | |) | VA 22313-1450 on this date: |
| Filed: | |) | |
| | |) | January 26, 2004 |
| Probable Group Art Unit: | |) | |
| 2814 | |) |  |
| Probable Examiner: | S. |) | Trevor B. Joine |
| H. Rao | |) | Reg. No. 25,542 |
| | |) | Attorney for Applicants |

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-6 and 22-31 remain in the application.
Claims 7-21 are cancelled.